

BACKUP #3

20 February 1960

BASIS FOR ICBM PRODUCTION ESTIMATE

A. We estimate IOC with about 10 series produced ICBMs by beginning of 1960.

1. Timing is primarily based on number and character of missile test firings. About 20 successful firings a reasonable number for achievement of IOC.

B. This IOC implies first delivery of series produced missiles for operational inventory beginning in the latter part of 1959.

1. Belief that series production under way is based on time elapsed since start of test-firings, Khrushchev's statements, and limited evidence on production facilities.

2. Recent rate of test-firings also suggests that series production is under way.

C. Have limited evidence that final assembly of ICBMs may be taking place at one and possibly two plants in the USSR.

PRODUCTION

1. Evidence insufficient for firm conclusions as to floor space, number of shifts involved, or present production rates.

2. A third plant, connected with a research and development facility, may have produced ICBM prototypes.

3. These plants may also be engaged in work on other types of ballistic missiles.

4. Still another plant is probably engaged in production of medium range ballistic missiles.

5. In addition to final assembly plants a large number of other plants and facilities are needed to produce missile components, ground guidance equipment, and launching and maintenance equipment.

D. To achieve the lower limit of our range (i. e., production of about 225 ICBMs for operational purposes by mid-1961, sufficient to provide 140 on launcher), production would need to build up from a few test missiles per month to a peak of about 15 per month in the latter part of 1960.

1. This would require a very large single final assembly plant operating at full capacity (i. e., about 2 million square feet and round the clock operation).

~~TOP SECRET~~

2. A factor in the Soviet production program is the size of their ICBM, which we believe is very large ~~(about 500,000 lbs; thrust 750,000 lbs.)~~

3. Same production might be achieved with two smaller plants.

E. To achieve the upper limit of our range, (i. e., production of about 350 by mid-1961, sufficient to provide about 200 on launcher) peak rate of production for operational purposes would have to build up to about 20-25 per month at the end of 1960 or early 1961.

1. This would probably require two plants, with 2nd plant following first by 6 months or more.

F. Production of missiles not sole factor in building up an operational ICBM capability. It probably represents some 15 to 25 percent of the total effort involved.